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# The House of Representatives

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE HOUSE

P.O. BOX 11867

Columbia 29211

(803) 734-2997



**JAMES E. SMITH, JR.**  
DISTRICT 72  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,  
1ST VICE CHAIR

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COLUMBIA, SC 29250  
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RepSmith@JamesSmith.org

November 10, 2009

Charles Terreni  
Chief Clerk and Administrator  
Public Service Commission of SC  
101 Executive Center Dr., Ste. 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Recently the SC PSC denied TracFone Wireless's request to provide free cell phones and free wireless service to poor citizens of our state under the federal Lifeline program. Hundreds of thousands of eligible people in our state do not have wireless access, and yet could under this twenty year old program if a provider like TracFone was able to operate here. This free service to the neediest South Carolinians would cost our state taxpayers nothing.

Less than 10% of this state's low income households receive Lifeline benefits now. This means that millions of federal dollars could help and be a huge financial benefit for our state at this critical time.

There has got to be a way for the PSC accommodate this need and expand access to wireless phones and service for low income South Carolinians. TracFone is willing to come here and commit considerable resources for providing this service to low income households in our state. It has a good track record in other states, including many of our neighbors in the Southeast. I would ask the PSC to rethink priorities and find a solution that preserves critical access to these federal dollars for our neediest citizens.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James E. Smith, Jr.

cc: C. Dukes Scott, Exec. Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
& members of Public Utilities Review Committee

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